

## CLAIMS

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) An animal treat ball apparatus comprising:

~~an a generally spheroidal outside surface in which a first opening is formed, said first opening providing access to a first space;~~

~~an interior compartment within the generally spheroidal outside surface defining a second space for containing animal treats, the interior compartment including a wall separating the first space and the second space, the wall having a second opening formed therein that allows animal treats to move between the first space and the second space, the interior compartment having a third opening that allows animal treats to move between the second space and an exterior of the animal treat ball apparatus;~~

~~an aperture within said generally spheroidal outside surface providing access to said interior compartment, said aperture truncating a portion of said generally spherical outer surface; and~~

~~a removable cap removably retained within the aperture first space and at least partially blocking the aperture second opening, said removable cap having a substantially dome-shaped outer surface generally conforming to said truncated portion of said generally spheroidal outer surface such that rolling of said animal treat ball apparatus across the aperture is enhanced while said removable cap is retained within said aperture and diminished after removal thereof.~~

14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, further including a sinuous raised feature on the outside surface.

16. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein:

the aperture is an outer extent of a space within the animal treat ball apparatus in which the

removable cap is removably retained; and

the ~~first~~ space is offset from a center location of the animal treat ball apparatus.

17. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[13]]~~ 40, wherein the wall of the interior compartment includes a funnel section for funneling items to the second opening;

18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the removable cap is an edible animal treat.

20. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[13]]~~ 40, wherein the wall includes more than one flap limiting a size of the ~~second~~ opening.

21.-26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13 ~~[[24]]~~, wherein the aperture is a first aperture, and  
wherein a second aperture is formed in the generally spheroidal outside surface interior compartment  
includes a third opening that allows animal treats to move between the interior compartment second  
space and an exterior of the animal treat ball apparatus.

28.-29. (canceled)

30. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein:

the animal treat ball apparatus has a lip at a perimeter of the aperture ~~first opening~~; and

when the removable cap is removably retained within the aperture ~~first space~~, the lip overlays  
some but less than all of an ~~outermost~~ the outer surface of the removable cap.

31. (currently amended) An animal treat ball apparatus, comprising:

~~an a generally spheroidal outside surface in which a first opening is formed, said first opening providing access to a first space for animal treats; and~~

an aperture within said generally spheroidal outside surface that truncates a portion of said generally spherical outer surface and that permits access to a space within the animal treat ball apparatus;

~~an interior compartment within the generally spheroidal outside surface defining a second space for containing animal treats;~~

~~, the interior compartment including a wall separating the interior compartment first space and the second space, the wall having an second opening formed therein that allows animal treats to move between the first space interior compartment and the second space, wherein a dimension of the first space along a plane containing the second opening is greater than a maximum dimension of the second opening; and~~

a removable cap removably retained within the space and at least partially blocking the aperture, said removable cap having a substantially dome-shaped outer surface generally conforming to said truncated portion of said generally spheroidal outer surface such that rolling of said animal treat ball apparatus across the aperture is enhanced while said removable cap is retained within said aperture and diminished after removal thereof.

32. (canceled)

33. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 31 ~~[[32]]~~, wherein the removable cap comprises an edible animal treat.

34. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 31 ~~[[32]]~~, wherein:

the animal treat ball apparatus has a lip at a perimeter of the aperture ~~first opening~~; and  
when the removable cap is retained within the ~~first~~ space, the lip overlays some but less than all of the outer ~~an outermost~~ surface of the removable cap.

35. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 31, further including a sinuous raised feature on the outside surface of the animal treat ball apparatus.

36. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the ~~first~~ space is offset from a center location of the animal treat ball apparatus.

37. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the wall of ~~the interior compartment~~ includes a funnel section for funneling items to the ~~second~~ opening.

38. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the wall includes more than one flap limiting a size of the ~~second~~ opening.

39. (canceled)

40. (new) The apparatus of claim 13, and further comprising:

a wall separating the aperture and the interior compartment, the wall having an opening formed therein that allows animal treats to move between the interior compartment and the aperture.

41. (new) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein a dimension of the space spaced apart from the aperture and in a second plane parallel to a first plane containing the aperture is greater than a maximum dimension of the aperture.

42. (new) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein a dimension of the space spaced apart from the aperture and in a second plane parallel to a first plane containing the aperture is greater than a maximum dimension of the aperture.

43. (new) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the aperture is a first aperture, and wherein a second aperture is formed in the generally spheroidal outside surface that allows animal treats to move between the interior compartment and an exterior of the animal treat ball apparatus.